

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

¹
Claim ~~2~~ (Previously Presented): An isolated-choline monooxygenase gene encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6.

²
Claim ~~3~~ (Previously Presented): An isolated gene comprising the following DNA (c)
or (d):

(c) the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1, 3 or 5;

(d) a nucleotide sequence which has 97% homology with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, 3 or 5, and which encodes a protein having choline monooxygenase activity.

³
Claim ~~4~~ (Previously Presented): A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene according to claim ~~2~~.

⁴
Claim ~~5~~ (Original): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim ~~4~~.

⁵
Claim ~~6~~ (Original): A method for producing a choline monooxygenase, comprising culturing the transformant according to claim ~~5~~ and recovering the choline monooxygenase from the resultant culture.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

⁶
Claim ~~8~~ (Previously Presented): An isolated gene encoding a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:17.

⁷
Claim ~~9~~ (Previously Presented): An isolated gene comprising the following DNA (g) or (h):

(g) the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 16;

(h) a nucleotide sequence which has 97% homology with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:16 and which encodes a protein having signal peptide activity.

⁸
Claim ~~10~~ (Previously Presented): A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene according to claim ~~8~~ or ^{6 7}~~9~~ and a gene of interest.

⁹
Claim ~~11~~ (Previously Presented): The recombinant vector according to claim ~~10~~,⁸ wherein the isolated gene of interest leads to production of a polypeptide or production of a plant metabolite.

¹⁰
Claim ~~12~~ (Currently Amended) The recombinant vector according to claim ~~10~~,⁸ wherein the polypeptide or the plant metabolite confers stress resistance to high salt conditions, drought conditions or both in a tobacco plant.

¹¹
Claim ~~13~~ (Original): The recombinant vector according to claim ~~10~~,⁸ wherein the gene of interest is *Chenopodium album* choline monooxygenase gene.

¹²
Claim ~~14~~ (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim ~~10~~⁸.

¹³
Claim ~~15~~ (Original): The transformant according to claim ~~14~~¹², which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

¹⁴
Claim ~~16~~ (Currently Amended): ~~An environmental stress-resistant~~ A tobacco plant which is obtained by culturing or cultivating a transformed plant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim ~~12~~¹⁰ ~~or 13~~ under an environmental stress of high salt conditions, drought conditions or both.

¹⁵
Claim ~~17~~ (Currently Amended): The plant according to claim ~~16~~¹⁴, wherein the environmental stress is high salt stress.

Claims 18-22 (Cancelled).

¹⁶
Claim ~~23~~ (Previously Presented): A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene according to claim ~~3~~².

¹⁷
Claim ~~24~~ (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim ~~23~~¹⁶.

¹⁸
Claim ~~25~~ (Previously Presented): A method for producing a choline monooxygenase, comprising culturing the transformant according to claim ~~24~~¹⁷ and recovering the choline monooxygenase from the resultant culture.

¹⁹
Claim ~~26~~ (Previously Presented): A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene according to claim ~~9~~⁷ and a gene of interest.

²⁰
Claim ~~27~~ (Previously Presented): The recombinant vector according to claim ~~26~~¹⁹, wherein the gene of interest leads to production of a polypeptide or production of a plant metabolite.

²¹
Claim ~~28~~ (Currently Amended): The recombinant vector according to claim ~~26~~¹⁹, wherein the polypeptide or the plant metabolite stress resistance to high salt conditions, drought conditions or both in a tobacco plant.

²²
Claim ~~29~~ (Previously Presented): The recombinant vector according to claim ~~26~~¹⁹, wherein the gene of interest is *Chenopodium album* choline monooxygenase gene.

²³
Claim ~~30~~ (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim ~~26~~¹⁹.

²⁴
Claim ~~31~~ (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim ~~27~~²⁰.

²⁵
Claim ~~32~~²⁵ (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim ~~28~~²¹.

²⁶
Claim ~~33~~²⁶ (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim ~~29~~²².

²⁷
Claim ~~34~~²⁷ (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim ~~30~~²³, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

²⁸
Claim ~~35~~²⁸ (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim ~~31~~²⁴, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

²⁹
Claim ~~36~~²⁹ (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim ~~32~~²⁵, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

³⁰
Claim ~~37~~³⁰ (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim ~~33~~²⁶, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

³¹
Claim ~~38~~³¹ (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim ~~34~~²⁷, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

³²
Claim ~~39~~³² (Currently Amended): ~~An environmental stress-resistant~~ A tobacco plant which is obtained by culturing or cultivating a transformed plant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim ~~13~~¹¹ under an environmental stress of high salt conditions, drought conditions or both.

³³
Claim ~~40~~ (Currently Amended): The plant according to claim ³²~~39~~, wherein the environmental stress is high salt stress.

³⁴
Claim ~~41~~ (Previously Presented): The isolated gene according to claim ²~~3~~, which is
(c).

³⁵
Claim ~~42~~ (Previously Presented): The isolated gene according to claim ²~~3~~, which is
(d).

³⁶
Claim ~~43~~ (Previously Presented): The isolated gene according to claim ⁷~~9~~, which is
(g).

³⁷
Claim ~~44~~ (Previously Presented): The isolated gene according to claim ⁷~~9~~, which is
(h).

³⁸
Claim ~~45~~ (New): A tobacco plant which is obtained by culturing or cultivating a transformed plant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim ¹¹~~13~~ under an environmental stress of high salt conditions, drought conditions or both.

³⁹
Claim ~~46~~ (New): The plant according to claim ³⁸~~48~~, wherein the environmental stress is high salt stress.